

Secular Options for Every Subject

Labels are what each publisher says about itself on its own site (checked October 2026)

Says secular teaches mainstream science & history

Neutral leaves origins to you

No faith statement

Says Christian

SUBJECT	IF YOU KEEP HEARING ABOUT...	CLOSEST SECULAR MATCH	WHY IT IS THE CLOSEST
All-in-one	Sonlight Christian	BookShark Neutral	Same literature-based, fully planned format
All-in-one	My Father's World Christian	Build Your Library Secular	Fully planned, book-rich days from K to 12
Reading & spelling	The Good and the Beautiful Christian	Logic of English or All About Reading No statement	Open-and-go phonics, no faith content claimed
Handwriting	A Reason For Handwriting Christian	Handwriting Without Tears No statement	Short daily lessons, sold to school districts
Math	Abeka Christian	Math Mammoth or Beast Academy No statement	A complete K–8 sequence, or books plus online lessons for ages 6–13
History	The Mystery of History Christian	Curiosity Chronicles or History Quest Secular	Same chronological world history, teaches religion as history
Science	Apologia Christian	REAL Science Odyssey or Real Science-4-Kids Secular	Same hands-on, lab-in-the-lesson approach

Where religion hides

Low risk: math, phonics. Check word problems and short readers.

Medium: handwriting, writing. Check what the copywork sentences are.

High: history and science. Check the first dates on the timeline and the chapter on origins.

Secular vs. neutral

Secular teaches evolution and deep time as science, and religions as part of history.

Neutral leaves those topics out and hands them to you. Both have no Bible lessons; only one teaches origins.

A label is a claim, not a test.

Use page 2 on a free sample before you buy anything, even from a publisher on this chart.

Is It Really Secular?

Fifteen minutes with a free sample · one row per subject · one program at a time

Program: _____

Grade: _____

Date: _____

SUBJECT	OPEN THIS PAGE	LOOK FOR	MY VERDICT
Math	Two pages of word problems	Names, settings and stories: church events, Bible characters, verses printed in the margin	☐ Secular / neutral ☐ Faith-based
Reading	The first short reader or story	What the practice sentences are about, and who the recommended books are by	☐ Secular / neutral ☐ Faith-based
Handwriting	Any copywork page	Whether the sentences children copy are verses, prayers or proverbs	☐ Secular / neutral ☐ Faith-based
Writing & grammar	Model sentences and dictation passages	The source of every passage: classic literature, or scripture and devotionals	☐ Secular / neutral ☐ Faith-based
History	The table of contents and the first timeline	Does the timeline start at Creation? Are Bible events dated next to Egypt and Sumer? Are religions taught as what people believed, or as fact?	☐ Secular ☐ Neutral ☐ Faith-based
Science	The scope and sequence, then the chapter on fossils, rocks or life	Search "evolution" and "natural selection." Neither word = neutral. "God's design" or "some scientists believe" = faith-based framing	☐ Secular ☐ Neutral ☐ Faith-based
Literature list	The full read-aloud and reader list	How many titles are missionary biographies, Bible storybooks or devotional fiction	☐ Secular / neutral ☐ Faith-based

What I found

Is that a deal-breaker?

- ☐ No, easy to skip
☐ Yes for this subject only
☐ Yes, move on

Neutral is not a failure.

Many secular families happily use a neutral math or phonics program. The test matters most where it changes what your child learns as fact: history and science.

My Secular Homeschool Year

One program per subject · mark what you checked before you paid

Child: _____ Grade: _____ School year: _____

SUBJECT	PROGRAM	LABEL	SAMPLE TESTED	BUDGET	NOTES
All-in-one			☐		
Math			☐		
Reading & spelling			☐		
Handwriting			☐		
Writing & grammar			☐		
History			☐		
Science			☐		
Extras			☐		

Six checks before you pay

- ☐ Decided secular or neutral is fine, subject by subject
- ☐ Ran the sample-page test on history and science
- ☐ Checked which subjects an all-in-one leaves out (often math)
- ☐ Read the full read-aloud list, not just the cover
- ☐ Worked one full lesson with the child
- ☐ Added up the year, including any separate math

If something slips through

- ☐ Skip the page and keep the program if it happens once
- ☐ Swap one subject instead of the whole curriculum
- ☐ Use it to talk about what different people believe
- ☐ Only replace the program if it is in every lesson

One faith-based word problem is not a reason to buy a new year of math.

Mixing publishers is normal.

Most secular families end up with one program per subject from different publishers. That is not a failure to find an all-in-one; it is usually the better fit.